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WHEAT

NEEDED for DEFENSE

1951

United States
Department of Agriculture
Production and Marketing
Administration

PA-152

MORE WHEAT NEEDED IN 1951

When winter wheat was planted last fall the Nation's food needs and the world picture were less clear than they are today. Then it seemed that we needed about the same total wheat acreage for 1951 harvest as we had in 1950. Now it is clear that we will need more.

Spring Wheat Growers in Spotlight

Winter wheat is already growing, so the increase must come in the spring wheat country. That means farmers in North Dakota, Montana, South Dakota, Minnesota, Washington, Idaho, Oregon, and Colorado must plant most of this increased acreage.

In total, the acreage asked for is a 17-percent increase in 1951. Here are the guide figures by States:

	SPRING WHEAT			
	Acreage planted in		Acreage needed in 1951	Percentage 1951 is of 1950
	1949	1950		
State	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	Percent
North Dakota	11,040	8,915	11,000	123
Montana	4,230	3,807	3,900	102
South Dakota	4,075	3,165	3,600	113
Minnesota	1,215	891	1,150	129
Washington	607	510	600	118
Idaho	559	531	550	104
Oregon	297	223	300	135
Colorado	220	141	200	142
Others	406	326	397	122
Total	22,649	18,509	21,697	117

Added Acreage Important

Wheat not immediately needed for food can be added to our reserve against poor years or used to meet possible increased export needs. Since there is little possibility of producing enough feed grain during the emergency, the increased wheat also will help supplement livestock feed supplies.

Price-Protecting Loans

Farmers have the assurance that prices of the 1951 wheat crop will be supported through Commodity Credit Corporation loans at 90 percent of parity. The minimum average support price for wheat is $1.99. If the parity price on wheat should be higher on July 1, 1951, the support price will be increased to reflect 90 percent of parity at that time. Efforts are being directed toward helping farmers get the needed machinery, equipment, repairs and parts, and materials needed for the control of weeds, insects, and diseases and to help with the problems of seeding, harvesting, transportation, marketing, and storage next fall.

Continued High Production

But this is more than a one-season job. Farmers and stockmen must be prepared to keep production at a high level in the years ahead—also prepared for an emergency spurt if and when needed. This means keeping up the conservation and production practices that best insure continued as well as present production—summer fallow, strip cropping, listing, and other locally adapted practices and rotations.

If additional land is needed for wheat, it is better to shift some land from a less essential crop, such as oats or flaxseed, than to break out land best suited to growing grass. There will be a continuing need for good grassland to support a higher level of livestock production and to help conserve water and land for continued high production.

ACP Geared to Production

Since future as well as present production must be considered, farmers' 1951 conservation practices should be geared to this year's production plans. Information on locally recommended practices and on the assistance provided for these practices is available at county PMA committee offices.

Produce what is needed in 1951 and keep the land in shape for the long pull.

WE MAY NEED MORE NEXT YEAR

March 1951

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